

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were previously pending in this application.

Claims 27-28 stand withdrawn as non-elected and are hereby cancelled without prejudice.

Examiner Vu requested that Applicant restrict the claims in the above-captioned patent application to either Group I which covers claims 1-26 and are drawn to a method for forming an oxide layer in an integrated circuit device, or Group II which covers claims 27-28 which are drawn to a trench isolation structure.

Applicant made a provisional election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-26 and reserves the right to file a divisional application, or take such other appropriate measures to protect his invention within Group II, claims 27-28.

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

Claims 15-18 and 22 are rejected.

Claims 19-21 and 23-26 are objected.

Claims 15-18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 15, 20, 22, and 24-26 are amended.

Claim 19 is cancelled, without prejudice, in favor of claim 15, as amended hereby. Claim 23 is also cancelled, without prejudice, in favor of amended claim 22.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-18, 20-22, and 24-26 remain in the case.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner's indication that claims 19-21 and 23-26 would be allowable if re written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The specification is amended to provide proper antecedent basis as shown above. Also, the description about FIG. 15 is added to the brief description of the Drawings. Thus, the objection of the specification is overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,180,493 to Chu ("Chu"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

To facilitate the allowance of this case, claim 15 is amended to include limitations from allowable claim 19. Thus, claim 15, and claims 16-18, which depend therefrom and recite features that are neither shown nor taught in the cited references, are allowable. Also, claim 22 is amended to include limitations from allowable claim 23. Thus, claim 22 is allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18, 20-22, and 24-26 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

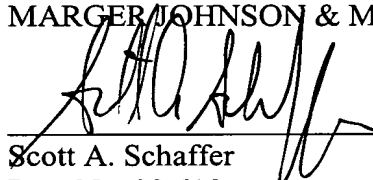


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Respectfully submitted,

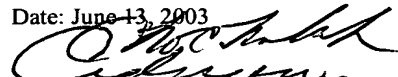
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Date: June 13, 2003



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